GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2832
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
INSUFFICIENT FOOD FOR RURAL PEOPLE
Singh Shri Suraj;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the National Sample Survey Organization report, around 10.6% of the rural population of West Bengal and Assam do not have sufficient food;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the special schemes proposed to be taken up by the Government in this regard during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): National Sample Survey Organisation in its Report No. 512 (NSS 61st Round) has indicated that the percentage of Rural Households not getting enough food every day in some months of the year in West Bengal and Assam is 10.6% and 1.7% respectively. The percentage of Rural Households not getting enough food every day in any month of the year for West Bengal and Assam is 1.3% and 3.6% respectively.

(b) & (c): The Government is implementing a number of welfare schemes such as Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for distributing wheat and rice at subsidized prices to the poor families in the country, including in the States of West Bengal and Assam. The Finance Minister in his Budget speech 2008-09 has, inter alia, announced that a sum of Rs. 32,667 crore is being provided next year for food subsidy under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare programmes. The Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat under TPDS have not been revised since July, 2000. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana covers about 2.42 crore poorest of the poor families among the below poverty line families and the central issue prices for them are Rs. 3/- per Kg for rice and Rs. 2/- per Kg. for wheat. The Government is also implementing a number of programmes to eradicate hunger and poverty. The major programmes in this regard include Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP). Besides, the Government is implementing programmes to improve the nutrition status of the population such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to supplement the nutrition requirement of children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers of targeted population and Mid-day Meal Scheme. These programmes are being implemented in collaboration with the State Governments.